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He Knows a Secret, Maybe

SEN. STUART SYMINGTON suggests he knows something about Russian missile strength that the Eisenhower administration isn't telling.

He says he will divulge this secret intelligence if the administration continues to minimize the Soviet missile threat. It's by no means certain the senator actually has any information that hasn't yet been made public. Often in these instances it turns out that a promised sensational disclosure is nothing more than a politically slanted further interpretation of a previously shopworn piece of basic intelligence.

But suppose the senator actually possesses some previously undivulged bit of intelligence that he is willing to trade for political advantage. By releasing it he might be acquainting the American people with something they didn't know. But he also would be letting the Russians know something that Central Intelligence had found out about them. Such knowledge would be of far more practical value to the Kremlin than to the American public.

For the most part the voters ought to be intelligent enough to realize this. Therefore Sen. Symington's threatened disclosure is questionable even from the standpoint of good politics to say nothing of national security.

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